

an elongated shank having a distal end and a proximal end, and a central axis extending from the distal end to the proximal end;

screw threads disposed on said shank and extending from the distal end to the proximal end;

wherein said proximal end defines a generally planar end surface disposed transversely to the central axis and at an angle thereto other than a normal angle.

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Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) stated claims 21-25 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim;

(2) rejected claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-14 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Riesser et al.;

(3) rejected claims 3-4, 9-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riesser et al. in view of Sutter et al.; and

(4) rejected claims 15-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riesser et al. (and Sutter et al. when necessary) in view of Sklar et al.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicants acknowledge that claims 21-25 are withdrawn from further consideration and expressly reserve the right to prosecute all non-elected subject matter in related applications.

In response to Item 2 above, Applicants have now amended independent claim 1 to more clearly define the INNO-31